(a) whether Government have protested to Pakistan for raising the Kashmir issue at the 10th Summit of the NAM; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) Pakistan raised the Kashmir issue at the Jakarta NAM Summit. Exercising the right of reply the Indian delegation stressed that Kashmir is and shall forever remain an integral and inseparable part of India. The Simla Agreement provided the framework for any related issues which Pakistan may wish to discuss with India. The Indian delegation also pointed out that Pakistan had violated the traditions of NAM in raising a bilateral issue in a forum where traditionally only issues which unite the Movement are discussed.

Pak Resolution on Ayodhya issue

604. DR. ABRAR AHMED :
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any note on passing of a Resolution by the Pakistani Parliament on temple-mosque dispute in Ayodhya recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have conveyed to Government of Pakistan at diplomatic and political levels its strong sentiments and deep concern over Pakistan's unwarranted interference in our internal affairs.

Pak-occupied Kashmir Militants bid to cross LAC

605. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that different Kashmiri militant out-fits in Pak-occupied Kashmir had declared their plans to cross the Line of Actual Control from different vulnerable points on October 28, 1992; and

(b) if so, what steps were taken to prevent such onslaught from across the borders; and with what success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) Government had been aware that groups based in Pakistan planned to cross the LAC in Jammu & Kashmir on October 24, 1992.

Government urged Government of Pakistan to take effective steps to prevent any violation of the LAC/border and to honour its bilateral obligations in terms of the Simla Agreement. Government had taken adequate measures to ensure the inviolability of the LAC and our borders.

Britain's objections to World Bank on Sardar Sarovar Project

606. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Britain has asked the World Bank to suspend further payments to the Sardar Sarovar Project in the Narmada Valley in six months time if real progress on resettlement, rehabilitation and environmental issues has not been made by India by that time;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step to condemn such action by Britain as it being an interference in the internal affairs of India; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider taking up suitable step to condemn Government of United Kingdom and at the same time inform the World Bank authorities about India's position on resettlement, rehabilitation and environmental issues ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Britain

has this far supported the recent decision taken by World Bank to continue participation in the Sardar Sarovar Project.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Improving Relations with Nepal

607. DR. NARREDDY THULASI-REDDY :

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister's visit to Nepal helped both countries to improve the relations;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government of India are helping Nepal Government in a big way for industrialisation; and

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Nepal on trade and commerce ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The liberalised guidelines of the Government of India for investment in joint ventures abroad by Indian entrepreneurs would greatly simplify the procedures for setting up such ventures in Nepal. Together with the certificate of origin system, this will promote Nepalese exports to India as also the industrialisation of Nepal and local employment opportunities.

(c) While no agreement was signed, a Joint Communique listing various areas of cooperation including trade and commerce was signed between India and Nepal.

Disposal of Passport applications

608. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA :
SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that lakhs of passport applications are lying pending in various regional passport offices in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take for their quick disposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The large pendency is primarily due to a spurt in the number of applications received by the Passport Offices, which has rendered the existng facilities inadequate.

(c) The Government has taken urgent steps to tackle the problem by, inter alia, increasing the supply of passport booklets; increasing the staff strength of various passport offices; expanding the use of computers and streamlining procedures for the issue of passports.

Trade Agreements with France

609. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our Prime Minister's recent visit to France has enabled India to attract investments from France;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the economic reforms brought by the Government of India enabled French investors to invest in India; and

(c) whether any trade agreements have been signed between Government of India and France during Prime Minister's visit to France ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) PM's visit has generated renewed interest in India and French business circles have generally shown indications of greater willingness to cosider investments in India.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. However, an Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation was concluded which will facilitate trade and investment.